



Operation Enduring Support Newsletter

Edition 1, July 2002

We are pleased to bring you this "Special Report on Freedom." The tragic events of September 11th have touched us all and have served as a vivid reminder that freedom requires our constant vigilance. America is now deeply engaged in a fierce response on every front to defeat terrorism across the globe and protect American citizens against attack on the home front. President Bush assured us the War on Terrorism will take time but with the full support of America, we will prevail. Our armed forces are answering their call to duty and have already shown the terrorists around the globe that we mean business. Our firefighters, police and emergency personnel are delivering on their promise to protect our citizens.

Operation Enduring Support:

—Honors our troops and civilians protecting our freedom and supports the eradication of terrorism. It also expresses the sense of Congress recognizing September 11th as a day of "American Unity."

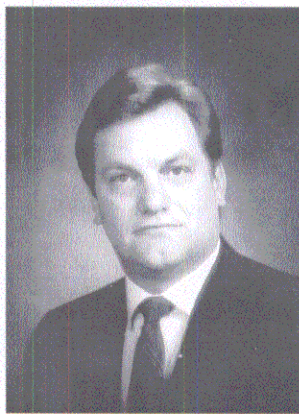
—Encourages Americans to participate in congressional and statewide kick-off events in support of "Operation Enduring Freedom."

—Encourages governors, county organizations,

American Legion and VFW members, and other entities to support "Enduring Freedom" through various activities.



Congressman C.L. "Butch" Otter, 1st Congressional District, Idaho



Congressman Mike Simpson, 2nd Congressional District, Idaho

Activities include:

- Sending care packages to troops
- Supporting the families of troops and civilian personnel
- Staging patriotic "welcome home" and "send off" rallies
- Financial and volunteer assistance to organizations that support our troops and civilians personnel

—Ensures that armed forces personnel and civilians protecting our Freedoms are treated and welcomed home as Heroes.

Otter and Simpson Initiate "Operation Enduring Support"

WASHINGTON, DC – A resolution authored by Idaho Congressmen C.L. "Butch" Otter and Mike Simpson initiating "Operation Enduring Support", passed the House on November 16, 2001 by unanimous consent. The resolution supports eradicating terrorism and supports troops and civilians working toward protecting our freedom. In addition, H.Res 284 encourages Congressional and Statewide events to bolster support for our troops engaged in the war on terrorism and expresses the sense of Congress

recognizing September 11th as a day of “American Unity.”

The resolution had 65 cosponsors.

“All Americans must understand that our forces, our arms and the use of our might cannot alone win this war on terrorism,” Otter said. “Every citizen has a role to play in the effort. ‘Operation Enduring Support’ calls on each of us to do our part by supporting our troops overseas and civilian workers at home who are valiantly fighting the war against terrorism.”

“Now more than ever, Americans can step forth and support our armed forces,” Simpson said. “I am pleased the House passed this bill to show our troops support and camaraderie. I encourage Idahoans to get involved in this home-front effort and to do all they can wherever they can.”

H.Res 284, encourages governors, county organizations, American Legion members, Veterans of Foreign Wars, other local entities and citizens to support “Operation Enduring Freedom” and the war against terrorism, through various activities in all 50 states.



Congressman Otter with Colonel Irving Halter, Commander at Mountain Home Air Force Base for a briefing on Operation Enduring Freedom's accomplishments.

Fly Flags to Honor Troops

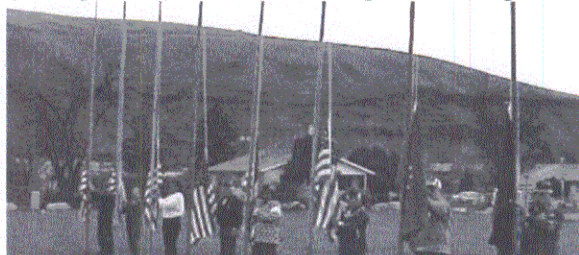
To honor the men and women of the 366th Wing stationed at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Congressman Mike Simpson and Congressman C.L. “Butch” Otter encouraged all Idahoans to display the American Flag on Friday, April 5, 2002, and show the Enduring Support the people of Idaho have for our fighting forces.

Members of the 366th Wing have returned

home from Afghanistan after being deployed to fight terrorism and oppression in that country.



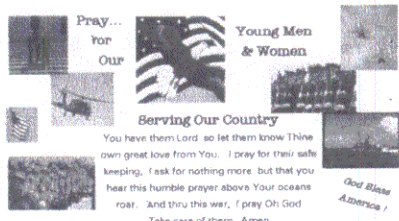
The Nez Perce Tribe celebrated the return of the 366th wing out of Mountain Home AFB with a ceremony that consisted of ceremonial drums, prayer, speeches and the raising of the flags.



Prayer Cards Remember Servicemembers

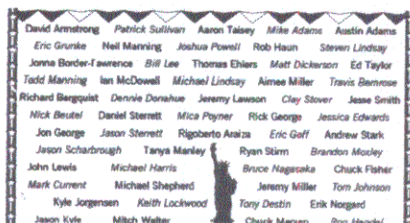
People throughout Idaho are doing their part for Operation Enduring Support. One of those people is Nonda Marks of Weiser.

“As my friend and I were talking one day about the need to remember and pray for all of our local young people serving, we came up with a idea to provide a tangible reminder to do just that,” Nonda said.



Nonda created a small “Military Prayer Card” with the names of the servicemen and women from Washington County who are away from home serving their country. The cards also include patriotic pictures and a brief prayer individuals can say.

After making the cards, Nonda distributed them to everyone in the community that wanted one.



"Our hope is that when they see these cards in their wallets, purse and pockets, they will be reminded of these great Americans and say a little prayer for them," Nonda said.

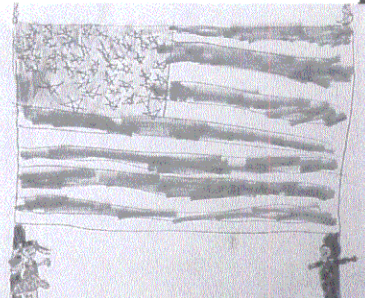
Operation Dear Abby

After Sept. 11th, people were encouraged to write servicemen and women to express their appreciation for defending freedom and America. However, after the anthrax mail attacks, letters could no longer be sent to servicemembers using the postal system.

An alternative has since been developed using the Internet to allow people to express their appreciation for the sacrifices American servicemen and woman have made.

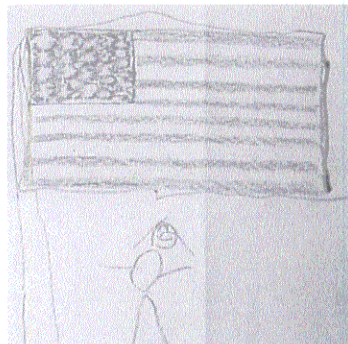
You can write a letter to a soldier, sailor, airman or marine at <http://www.anyservicemember.navy.mil> or <http://www.lifelines2000.org>. You can choose the branch of the military you want the letter to go to and the state you're from so servicemembers can get letters from their home state. If you include an e-mail address, you can even get a response back from the servicemember that reads your message.

Children Draw for Troops

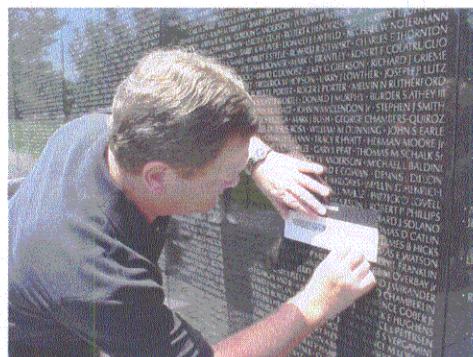


Susan Rehman wanted to do something to show support for our troops fighting overseas. So Susan and her children decided to draw pictures for the troops showing their appreciation.

Congressman Otter forwarded the pictures to the 391st Fighter Squadron at Mountain Home Air Force Base, members of which are currently serving overseas.



The pictures of flags and soldiers had messages attached saying, "Thank you for fighting for me," Sara. "I hope you win because I want Afghanistan to be safe. I want you to be safe," Liana. Susan's message said, "My husband is Pakistani, please know many Muslims are thrilled you're getting rid of the Taliban and giving Afghanistan a chance at peace."



Congressman Mike Simpson making a rubbing of an Idaho Veteran from the Vietnam Memorial to help Veteran Dave Parks pay tribute

Congress Passes Funding Increase for Veterans

With the strong support of Congressman C.L. "Butch" Otter, Congress passed legislation to expand funding for veterans programs. They will receive a \$5.6 billion, 11.9 percent increase in budget authority over fiscal 2001.

This additional funding will provide support for veterans health care, education programs and a number of additional veterans programs and

benefits.

"For years now, veterans have suffered, while other federal program spending has skyrocketed," Otter said. "For example, programs supporting illegal aliens and Social Security disability benefits for drug addicts and other substance abusers have increased. It is about time Congress acted in the best interests of our veterans who have given so much to defend our freedom and asked very little in return."

Military and related legislation Congressmen Simpson and Otter have supported since January, 2001

H. Res. 459: Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling the Pledge of Allegiance is Unconstitutional

H. Res. 459 was passed by the House of Representatives to express their dissatisfaction over the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision ruling the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional.

H. J. Res. 36: Flag Desecration Resolution

The bill proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

H. R. 4954: Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act

The act amends Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a voluntary program for prescription drug coverage under the Medicare Program, to modernize and reform payments and the regulatory structure of Medicare.

The Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act has been passed by the House, and is now in the Senate.

H. R. 2540: Veterans Benefits Act

The bill amends Title 38, U.S. Code, to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities. It also would increase dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of such veterans.

The Veterans Benefits Act has been passed by

the House and the Senate and is now law.

H. R. 4085: Veterans' and Survivors' Benefits Expansion Act

The act increases, effective Dec. 1, 2002, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans.

The Veterans' and Survivors' Benefits Expansion Act has been passed by the House and currently is in the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H. R. 801: Veterans' Survivor Benefits Improvements Act

The bill amends Title 38, U.S. Code, to expand eligibility for CHAMPVA. It provides for family coverage and retroactive expansion of the increase in maximum benefits under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

The Veterans' Survivor Benefits Improvement Act has been passed by the House and Senate and has become law.

H. R. 811: Veterans Hospital Emergency Repair Act

The bill authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out construction projects for the purpose of improving, renovating, and updating patient care facilities at Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers.

The Veterans Hospital Emergency Repair Act has been passed by the House and is currently in the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H. R. 1291: 21st Century Montgomery GI Bill Enhancement Act

The bill amends Title 38, U.S. Code, to modify and improve education benefits, burial benefits and vocational rehabilitation benefits for veterans. It also makes changes regarding the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

The 21st Century Montgomery GI Bill has been passed by the House and Senate and has become law.

H. R. 5011: Military Construction Appropriations Act

The act appropriates money for military construction, family housing and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense.

The Military Construction Appropriations Act has been passed by the House, and is now in the Senate.

H. J. Res. 95: Medal of Honor Flag

The measure provides for the designation of a Medal of Honor Flag and for presentation of that flag to recipients of the Medal of Honor.

The Medal of Honor Flag Joint Resolution has been passed by the House and is currently in the Senate Committee on Armed Services.

H. R. 5010: Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2003

The bill appropriates money for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003.

The Department of Defense Appropriations Act has been passed by the House and is currently in the Senate.

H. R. 1696: World War II Memorial Bill

The bill expedites the construction of the World War II memorial in the District of Columbia.

The World War II Memorial Bill has been passed by House and Senate and has become law.

H. Con. Res. 174: Use of the Capital Rotunda for a Congressional Gold Medal Presentation

The resolution authorize the Rotunda of the Capitol to be used on July 26, 2001, for a ceremony to present Congressional Gold Medals to the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers.

H.R. 3988: American Legion Amendments Act

The bill clarifies American Legion requirements for eligibility. It allows men and women to join the nearly 3 million-member American Legion even though they continue to serve honorably in the armed forces.

H.R. 3838: Veterans of Foreign Wars Charter Amendment Act

The bill extends membership eligibility to any armed forces personnel who receive special pay for duty that is subject to hostile fire or imminent

danger.

H.R. 3214: AMVETS Charter Amendment Act

The Bill changes the meaning of the organization's name to American Veterans, making it more general and inclusive. Its membership is open to anyone currently serving in the armed forces or who has served honorably since Sept. 15, 1940.

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